Research Methodology :-

Region of Research

The geographical location for the study is India .

Since students can join for Distance Education studies from any part of the country, our research study will cover study and growth pattern of Distance Education at National Level.

Research Design

The research conducted shall be Descriptive and Analytical in nature.

The research design and the steps adopted in research methodology kept in focus the objectives set for the study and the general hypothesis of the study.

The objectives, general hypothesis , become the center of research methodology to fulfill the purpose of research.

Population and Sampling

- The population of the study consisted of leading Open Universities and Institutions offering management education through Distance Learning in India.
- There are around 160 Government recognised Major Open Universities and Institutes in India. A sample size of 50 organisations has been taken for research work.
- From one of the major leading organization having average intake of around 10000 distance learning students , a sample size of 3000 students has been planned for survey .
- The sampling method incorporated is simple Random Sampling Method.

An attempt shall be made to cover survey of Faculties and administrators of Distance Learning education as well as students doing distance learning management education programs from various universities and Institutions from India.

The sampling method incorporated is Convenient Sampling Method.

Collection of Data

The collection of data consists of both primary data and secondary data.

The primary data shall be collected by floating a structured questionnaire. Before finalizing the structured questionnaire, the questionnaire shall be subjected to pilot testing.

Primary data shall also be collected through following :

(1) Study of major Indian Open Education Universities as well as institutes offering Management Education through physical visit .

(2) Preparation of a survey report for major Indian Open Universities in Management Education , covering various parameters like their areas of operations, Education methodology, type of student support services made available, provision for academic counseling , type of study material and other teaching aids being provided as well as their unique strengths and areas of improvement.

(3) Through Outcome analysis, where comparison will be made for subjective criteria like students' impression of the quality of learning in a distance education versus a traditional classroom session.

(4) Through subjective surveys, which will include questions like , Did the students who participated via distance learning in the interactive discussions feel included in the interactive discussions ? Did a group of teachers s new to Distance education experience the medium as a successful one ? Through subjective surveys, we shall strive to answer questions such as these, and draw conclusions accordingly.

(5) The structured questionnaire will be prepared for different survey of students as well as teachers. The questions shall be of multiple choice type, where respondent have to select the appropriate choice. The structured

questionnaire shall be distributed to the various academicians in the field of Distance Education as well as students pursuing Management Education through Distance Learning. The responded questionnaire shall be subjected to editing so as to eliminate incomplete questionnaire and non-properly filled questionnaires. The study shall admit around 1000 questionnaires for future analysis and interpretation.

The secondary data shall be collected from the following sources :

a. The websites of different Open Universities and Institutions offering management education through Distance Learning.
b. Books relevant to the field of Distance Education.
c. Published research reports.
d. The brochures , leaflets and other published materials of different universities and distance learning institutions.
e. A number of journals available In the filed of Distance Education like , Indian Journal of Open Learning, Asian Journal of Distance Education , International Journal of Distance Education Technologies etc.
f. Through case study analysis of few successful distance education projects. These case studies will concentrate on the technologies used , the course content, the teaching styles , the student population , or some combination of factors that produced a successful outcome. These case studies can be used to illustrate and inform others about best practices